

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1593

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0412

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, RO

SUBJECT: SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING/CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION

REF: (A) STATE 012151; (B) BUCHAREST 5435, DATED 11/22/74;
(C) BUCHAREST A-211, DATED 9/13/74

THE DATA BELOW IS KEYED TO THE REQUIREMENTS IN REFTEL A:
SECTION A - NOT APPLICABLE AS THE POST DOES NOT RECEIVE ASSISTANCE
FROM NARCOTICS APPROPRIATIONS UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT.
SECTION B.

A. SUMMARY. THE SECOND SEMESTER OF 1974 SAW INTENSIFIED
TRAINING ACTIVITY BY THE GOR, EVOLVING FROM THE PARTICIPATION OF
FOUR ROMANIAN CUSTOMS INSPECTORS IN A NARCOTICS-CONTROL COURSE
IN WASHINGTON IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER. THE FOUR INSPECTORS ON
THEIR RETURN VISITED THE VARIOUS FRONTIER POINTS, CONVEYING
TO OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL THE KNOWLEDGE THEY HAD ACQUIRED IN
THE U.S. GOR INTENTIONS TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS AT YEAR END FOR
ARRANGING IN-COUNTRY TRAINING BY U.S. SPECIALISTS FELL VICTIM
TO INTERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES AND ARE NOW TO TAKE
PLACE AT MID-YEAR.

B. ABUSE. THE GOR IS ADAMANT IN DENYING EXISTENCE OF
A DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO GAIN-
SAY THEIR ASSERTION. YOUNG ADULTS IN THE ROMANAN POPULATION
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ARE PLACED UNDER PRESSURE TO EXHIBIT EXEMPLARY PERSONAL

BEHAVIOR SO AS TO OBTAIN RIGHTS FOR EDUCATION, JOB OPPORTUNITIES, ETC. GIVEN THE RATHER MINOR DEGREE OF CONTACT WITH FOREIGN YOUTH, EXTERNAL INFLUENCES HAVE ALSO NOT BEEN A FACTOR AS YET IN THE PROPAGATION OF DRUG USE.

C. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING. VERY MINOR QUANTITIES OF POPPY STRAW ARE PRODUCED AND PROCESSED IN NORTHERN MOLDAVIA. ALTHOUGH THE ROMANIANS HAVE NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING WITH PRODUCTION FIGURES, THEY MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO HIDE THE ACTIVITY AND IN FACT IN CONTROLLING INSECTS THAT ATTACK THE PLANTS, HAVE ENLISTED THE HELP OF THE UN AND USDA (BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF WEEDS LABORATORY, AMEMB ROME). PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND END USE IS STRICTLY CONTROLLED BY GOR.

D. TRAFFICKING TRENDS. ROMANIAN OFFICIALS DECLARE THEIR AWARENESS OF THE LIKELIHOOD THAT TRAFFICKING WILL INCREASE AS ROMANIA BECOMES MORE ACCESSIBLE TO FOREIGN TRAVELLERS AND AS TRAFFICKERS SEEK TO DIVERSIFY ESTABLISHED ROUTES. THE TRAINING SPOKEN OF ABOVE CAN BE DESCRIBED AS MANIFESTATION OF THIS CONSCIOUSNESS. SPECIFIC QUESTIONS REGARDING OFFENDERS APPREHENDED ARE TURNED ASIDE BY ROMANIAN OFFICIALS, HOWEVER.

E. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION. THE GOR IS KNOWN TO MAKE USE OF INTERPOL IN THE FIELD OF NARCOTICS. COORDINATION WITH NEIGHBORING STATES HAS BEEN MENTIONED BY THE ROMANIANS AS ANOTHER MEANS USED IN COMBATING THE DRUG TRAFFIC.

F. EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT RELATIONS. THE EMBASSY MAINTAINS A CORDIAL AND INFORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CUSTOMS SERVICE, WITH MEETINGS SCHEDULED FROM TIME TO TIME AND LITERATURE SUPPLIED AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. THERE IS ALSO AN ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, THAT MINISTRY HOWEVER DEFERRING TO THE CUSTOMS SERVICE ON QUESTIONS OF NARCOTICS - NO DOUBT BECAUSE OF THE ESSENTIALLY EXTERNAL NATURE OF THE THREAT.

G. ENFORCEMENT. WITH VIRTUALLY NO OFFENDERS AMONG ITS OWN CITIZENS, THE ENFORCEMENT TASK FACING THE GOR PRESENTS ITSELF IN TERMS OF SEIZURES AT THE BORDERS. THE GOR HAS NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE WITH REGARD TO FIGURES ON TRAFFICKERS OR SUSPECTS INTERCEPTED, EVEN THOUGH IT STANDS TO REASON THAT SOME INSTANCES MUST HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.

H. INCOME SUBSTITUTION. NOT APPLICABLE.

I. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN THE GOR UNDOUBTEDLY ARE AWARE THAT DRUG ABUSE
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COULD SOMEDAY BECOME A PROBLEM IN THIS COUNTRY. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION IS NOT A MATTER OF PRIORITY, UNDOUBTEDLY FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT THIS SOCIETY IS SO TIGHTLY CONTROLLED THAT EXTENSIVE ILLICIT USE OF DRUGS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT EARLY DETECTION AND SEVERE PUNISHMENT BY THE AUTHORITIES.

2. NARRATIVE SUBMITTED IN BUCHAREST A-211, SEPT 13, 1974,

ADEQUATELY DESCRIBES FY76 PROJECT OBJECTIVES.

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